

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 DPW-01 NEA-10 ACDA-19

RSR-01 /147 W

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P 021836Z AUG 73

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 121

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652 N/A, DECON 8/2/74

TAGS VS, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN-PGR BILATERALS: 19TH PLENARY SESSION, AUG 2, 1973

1. (SUMMARY) IN AN UNPRODUCTIVE SESSION, GVN AND PGR REPS ACCUSED EACH OTHER OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE, MOST NOTABLY BY VIOLATING THE CEASE-FIRE. IN SUMMING UP THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS, VIEN (GVN) EMPHASIZED PROBLEM OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND NEED FOR GENEERAL ELECTIONS, WHILE HIEU (PRG) STRESSED AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE, RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. AT THE ENSUING PRESS CONFERENCES NEITHER SPOKESMAN WOULD COMMENT ON QUESTION OF IRAN REPLACING CANADA IN ICCS. NEXT SESSION AUGUST 8. (END SUMMARY).

2. SPEAKING FIRST, MINISTER OF STATE HIEU (PROG) ACCUSED GVN OF COMMITTING 42 THOUSAND CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS DURING PERIOD JUNE 14-JULY 25, INCLUDING DIVISION-SIZED OPERATIONS IN KONTUM, CHUONG THIEN AND NORTH OF SAIGON; ESTABLISHMENT OF OUTPOSTS IN PRG TERRITORY; INDISCRIMINATE BOMBING AND SHELLING; AND USE OF GAS AND TOXC CHEMICALS. HIEU FURTHER ACCUSED GVN OF FAILURE TO APPLY OTHER PROVISIONS OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE SUCH

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AS MEETINGS BETWEEN COMMANDERS OF TROOPS IN CONTACT, DETERMINATION

OF ZONES OF CONTROL, RETURN OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. SOME RECENT HARD-LINING STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT THIEU WERE CITED, AND GVN WAS TERMED "THE INSTRUMENT OF AMERICAN NEO-COLONIALISM."

3. HIEU THEN ATTACKED GVN NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS AS CONTRARY TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, IN SUMMING UP PAST PGR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS HIEU EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A REAL CEASE-FIRE AND RETURN F ALL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, AND THEN MENTIONED BRIEFLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD, SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE (I.E. ELECTIONS), AND SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF ARMED FORCES IN SVN. HIEU BLAMED GVN AND US FOR LACK OF PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS, AND ASSERTED THAT CONTINUED USE OF FORCE BY GVN AND US WOULD BRING FORTH A STRONG REACTION FROM THE PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMED FORCES.

4. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VIEN (GVN) ACCUSED THE OTHER SIDE OF MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEENT AND OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. VIEN EMPHASIZED NORTH VIETNAMESE INFILTRATION INTO SOUTH VIETNAM, SPECIFICALLY ASSERTING THAT 66,000 DRV SOLDIERS AND CADRE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM SINCE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, PLUS ABOUT 400 TANKS, 200 HEAVY ARTILLERY PIECES AND 300 ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS. VIEN FURTHER ACCUSED THE OTHER SIDE OF 20,026 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS FROM JANUARY 27 THROUGH JULY 28, OF WHICH 3,167 HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE SIGNATURE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. VIEN GAVE NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF SUCH VIOLATIONS USING SPECIFIC UNIT DESIGNATIONS. HE ALSO GAVE EXAMPLES OF ACTS OF TERRORISM; AND ACCUSED THE OTHER SIDE OF SABOTAGE OF THE ICCS CITING VARIOUS INCIDENTS AND CANDEL STATEMENTS.

5. TURNING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, VIEN ATTACHED PRG'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN SVN AND TO DISCUSS A DATE FOR ELECTIONS. VIEN ASSERTED OTHER SIDE SOUGHT TO LEGALIZE NVA PRESENCE IN SVN BY PUTTING FORTH ITS JULY 18 PROPOSALS EMPHASIZING DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. VIEN RECALLED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GVN PROPOSALS OF APRIL 25, JUNE 28 AND JULY 25, STRESSING THE CALL IN THOSE PROPOSALS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS AND ALSO VARIOUS GVN PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS (ESTABLISHMENT OF 4 COMMISSIONS TO DISCUSS ALL PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY, PRIVATE MEETINGS) DESIGNED TO FACILITATE NEGTIATIONS.

6. VIEN CONCLUDED IT WAS CLEAR THE OTHER SIDE WANTED TO AVOID SETTLEMENT IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A "THIRD VIET-NAM" IN SVN

AND PREPARE A FUTURE OFFENSIVE TO BRING SVN UNDER THE CONTROL OF "THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST REGIME." VIEN CALLED ON COMMUNISTS SINCERELY TO ACCEPT RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL UNITY.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE OPENING STATEMENTS WERE FOLLOWED BY A LENGTHY, POLEMICAL AND UNPRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE CAUSES OF THE WAR.

8. ONLY QUESTIONS ASKED IN LIGHTLY-ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCES CONCERNED REPORTS THAT IRAN MIGHT REPLACE CANADA ON THE ICCS. NEITHER DAN (GVN) NOR SAU (PRG) WOULD COMMENT. OTHERWISE SPOKESMEN MERELY REPEATED POINTS MADE IN PLENARY STATEMENTS.

9. THE TWO PARTIES AGREED TO RECONVENE AUGUST 8.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JECPA21031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JEC PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730863/aaaabtxl.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GVN-PGR BILATERALS: 19TH PLENARY SESSION, AUG 2, 1973
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005